

Appl No. 09/446,323
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Amendments to the Claims:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A device for taking and examining samples, comprising a housing having positioned therein a cartridge, a testing means, and a sample-taking means, the sample-taking means comprising two half-tubes connected to each other, wherein the cartridge is displaceable within the housing such that a sample introduced by the sample-taking means is operable to form a sample mixture with a content of the cartridge, and wherein the testing means is displaceable within the housing.

14. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the two half-tubes comprises a first disk and a second disk defining a sample chamber.

15. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the first disk comprises a sieve and an indentation, and further wherein an edge of the first disk comprises a cone-shaped ring.

16. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 15, wherein the cartridge is cylindrically shaped and comprises, on one end, a truncated cone engageable with the cone-shaped ring.

17. (Previously presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the two half-tubes are connected by a joint, and wherein the joint is selected from the group consisting of a film hinge and an elastic web.

18. (Previously presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the first disk is coupled to the sample-taking means with predetermined breaking points.

19-22. (Canceled)

23 (Previously presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein the testing means is displaceable within the housing between a first position, in which the testing means does

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not contact the sample mixture, and a second position, in which the testing means makes contact with the sample mixture.

24-26. (Canceled)